# ¶ An admonicion or warnyng, to all the Kynges Maiesties Iustices of Peace,

in the name of the Lorde Protector, and the rest of the Kynges Maiesties counsaill, spoken in the Sterre Chamber, by the Lorde Chaunceloz of Englande, the fourth of May, in the second yere of the reigne of our souereigne lorde Kyng Edwarde the sixte. &c.

¶ It hath been vsed and accustomed before this tyme, to call at certayne tymes the Iustices of peace, before the Kynges Maiesties counsail, to geue vnto theim admonicion and warnyng, diligently as their duetie is, to loke to the obseruyng of suche thynges, as be committed to their charges, according to the truste, whiche the Kynges maiestie hath in theim. Now bee it, now at this tyme, wee call you before vs, not onely of custome, but rather of necessitie: For hearyng daily and perceiuyng as we do, the greate negligence, and the litle hede whiche is taken and geuen, to the obseruyng of the good and wholsome Lawes, and ozders in this realme, whereupon muche disozde dooth daily ensue, and the Kynges Maiesties Proclamacions and ozders, taken by the counsaill (as we are

aduertised) not executed, the people brought to a disobedience, and in maner all his Maiesties studie and cures, in settyng a good and moste Godly staie, to the honor of God, and the quiet of the realme, spent in vain, and come to nothing. The whiche, as wee haue greate hope and trust, not to bee altogether so, yet so muche as it is, and so muche as it lacketh, of kepyng the realme in a moste Godly ordre and staie: we muste nedes imputte, and laie the faulte therof in you, whiche are the Justices of Peace in euery Shire: to whom, we are wont to directe our writynges, & to whose trust and charge, the kynges maiestie hath committed, the execution of all his Proclamations, of his Actes, of Parliament, of his Lawes.

We are informed that many of you, be so negligent and so slacke, in that, that it doth appere, that you doo rather loke, as it wer through your fingers, then diligently to se, for the execucion of thesaied Lawes and Proclamations: For if you would accordyng to your dueties, to your othe, to the truste, whiche the kynges maiestie hath in you, geue your diligence and care, toward therecuction of thesame, moste Godly Statutes and Iniunccions, there should no disobedience, no disordre, nor euill rule, bee begon, or arise in any part of the realme, but it should by and by be repressed, kepte doune, and reformed.

Wary it is feared, and the thyng it self geueth occasion thereto, that diuerse of you, do not onely set furthe, but rather hynder, so muche as lieth in

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you, the kynges maiesties procedynges: and are content that there should arise some disobedience and that menne should repine against Godly orders, set furthe by his Maiestie, you do so slackly looke to the execution of thesame. So that in some Shires, whiche bee further of, it maie appere that the people hath neuer hard of diuerse of his maiesties Proclamaciõs, or if thei haue hard that you are content to wincke at it, and to neglecte it, so that it is all one, as though it wer neuer commaunded. But if you doo consydre, and remembre your dueties, firste, to almightie God, and then to the kynges Maiestie, the wealthe of the whole Realme, the safegarde and suretie of your awne selfes, you must nedes se, that excepte suche ordres, as the kynges Maiestie hath sette, and shall herafter appoynt to be kept, neither the realme can bee defended, if the enemie should inuade, nor in peace it cannot stande, but vpon the contempt of good and wholsome lawes, all disordre and inconuenience should come, the people should be wilde and sauage, and no man sure of his awne. And if at any tyme there was occasion and cause, to be circumspect and diligent aboute thesame, there was neuer more tyme then now: How wee stande in Scotlande you knowe, and that other forrein power maketh great preparacion to aide them, and in deede doth come to their aide, we are surely informed and certified. Wherfore, if there should not be good ordre, and obedience kepte in the realme, the realme were like vt-

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terly to be destroyed. Neuer forrein power could yet hurte, or in any parte preuaile in this realme, but by disobedience and misorder within our selfes, that is the waies wherewith God will plague vs, if he mynde to punish vs: and so long as we do agree within our selfes, and be obedient to our Prince, and to his Godly orders and lawes, wee maie bee sure that God is with vs, and that forrein power, shall not preuaile against vs nor hurte vs. Wherfore once again, and stil we must and doo laie this charge vpon you, that are the better of the Shire and Justices of Peace: that with so conuenient spede as you can, you doo repaire doune into your countreys. And you shall also geue warnyng, to the Gentle menne of the Shire, whiche haue not necessarie busines here, that thei repaire doune eche man into his countrey, and there bothe you and thei, who be reconed the state of euery Shire, to se good order and rule kepte. You, that your Sessions of Gaole deliuery, and quarter Sessions, bee well kepte, and thereun your metynges, to bee suche, that Justice might be well and truly ministered, the offendors and malefactors punished, accordyng to the Lawes of the realme, without any feare of any man, or that for fauoure, you should suffre those to escape, whiche with their euill exãple, might bryng other to like mishappe, and that all Vacabounides, al lewde and light tale tellers, and seditious berers of false newes of the kynges Maiestie, or of his counsaill, or suche as will preache without

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licenſe, be immediatly by you repreſſe and puniſhed. And if there ſhould chaunce, any lewde and light fellowes, to make any routes or riottes, or vnlawfull aſſembles, any ſeditious metynges, vprores, or vprilynges, in any place, by the ſeditious and deuiliſhe mocio, of ſome priuie traitors, that you and thei appeaſe theim at the firſte, and apprehende the firſte aucthors and cauſers therof, and certifie vs with ſpede.

The lightnes of the rude and ignorant people, muſt be repreſſe and ordered, by your grauitie and wiſedome: And here you maie not (if any ſuche thyng chaunce) diſſemble, with thoſe ſuche lewde men, and hide your ſelfes. For it ſhalbe required of you, if ſuche miſorder bee: and ſurely without your aide and help, or your diſſemblyng ſuche miſorder cannot bee. Nor we dooe not ſaie this, that wee feare any ſuche thyng, or that there is any ſuch thyng likely to chaunce, but we geue you warning before, leaſt it ſhould chaunce. We haue had to muche experience in this Realme, what inconuenience commeth of ſuche matters, and though ſome light perſones, doo not in their rage conſider it, yet wee doo not doubte but that you weigh it, and knowe it well inough. And if it ſhould chaunce our enemie (who is mainteined, by other forrein powers, and the Buſhoppe of Rome) ſhould ſodainly arriue, in ſome place of England, either driuen by tempeſte, or of purpoſe, to do hurte, ye ſhould ſe ſuche orders kepte, by fieryng of Beacons, as hath all ready been

wrytten vnto you by our letters, to repulse the=
same, in so good arraie as you can, as we do not
doubte but you will, for the saufegarde of
your countrey: so that the enemie shall
haue litle ioye of his commyng.
And for that purpose, you
shall se diligently, that
menne haue Horse
Harneis, and
other
furniture of wea=
pon redy, accordyng to
the Statutes, and good
orders of the realme,
and the kynges
Maiesties
commaundementes.

God saue the Kyng.

*Excusum Londini, in ædibus Richardi Graftoni,*
*Regij Impressoris.*

*Cum Priuilegio ad Imprimendum solum.*